

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

~~Claims 1-31 (cancelled)~~

32. (New) A pulverulent mannitol having:

- an average diameter of between 60 and 200 μm ;
- a packed bulk density, determined according to the method specified in the operating instructions for the HOSOKAWA P.T.N powder tester, of between 0.65 and 0.85 g/ml;
- a flow factor of at least 60.

33. (New) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32 having:

- an average diameter of between 80 and 180 μm .

34. (New) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32 having:

- a packed bulk density, determined according to the method specified in the operating instructions for the HOSOKAWA P.T.N powder tester, of between 0.7 and 0.8 g/ml.

35. (New) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32 having:

-- a flow factor of at least 60.

36. (New) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 35 having:

-- a flow factor of between 60 and 90.

37. (New) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32, having a mannitol content at least equal to 96% by weight.

38. (New) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 37, having a mannitol content at least equal to 98% by weight.

39. (New) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32, having a rate of dissolution of between 20 and 60 seconds when dissolving 5 g of the product until perfect visual clarity, into 150 ml of deionised, degassed water maintained at 20°C and stirred at 200 rpm.

40. (New) A process for preparing a pulverulent mannitol having the characteristics of the pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32, comprising a step of granulating a crystalline mannitol powder by a wet route with the aid of a binder, and a

maturing step, by drying, of the pulverulent mannitol thus obtained.

41. (New) The preparation process according to claim 40, wherein the granulation stage is carried out in a continuous mixer granulator.

42. (New) An excipient in a composition, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32.

43. (New) An excipient according to claim 42 in a pharmaceutical composition.

44. (New) An excipient in a powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to claim 32.

45. (New) An excipient in a composition, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in claim 40.

46. (New) An excipient according to claim 45 in a pharmaceutical composition.

47. (New) Excipient in a powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in claim 40.
